

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00897 241052Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 DHA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07
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-----073130 241110Z /20

R 240845Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7184
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LIBERVILLE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0897

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, SF, WA, LT
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF LESOTHO FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON NAMIBIA

REFS: A) STATE 142174, B) MASERU 809 (NOTAL)

1. SYNNTART: CGARGE AND BHC BRIEFED FONMIN OFFICIAL ON
WESTERN FIVE/SAG TALKS ON NAMIBIA. FONMIN OFFICIAL EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT TIMING OF ELECTIONS AS RESPECTS SWAPO FUTURE,
THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED UN PRESENCE, THE ROLE OF THE PRO-
POSED SA-APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AND WITHDRAWAL OF
SA FROM NAMIBIA. SEE ALSO COMMENT PARA 4. END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND CHARGE CALLED ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS PERMSEC MASHOLOGU JUNE 23 TO BRIEF HIM AS INSTRUCTED
REF A. FONMIN MOLAPO, WHO HAS BEEN TRAVELLING IN EUROPE SINCE
END OF COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN LONDON, IS NOT EXPECTED
RETURN LESOTHO PRIOR OPENING OF OAU COUNCIL MEETING IN
LIBERVILLE. MASHOLOGU ASSURED US, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD
BE IN TOUCH WITH FONMIN AND CONVEY SENSE THIS MORNING'S
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PAGE 02 MASERU 00897 241052Z

BRIEFING TO HIM. MASHOLOGU INDICATED NAMIBIA HAS BEEN DISCUSSED
WITH FONMIN BOTHA WHEN HE VISITED MASERU JUNE 1. STRANGELY,
FONMIN HAD NOT MENTIONED THIS SUBJECT WHEN BRIEFING CHARGE
ON GOL MEETING WITH BOTHA (REF B).

3. DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED REF A, UK HICOM LED
THE WAY IN BRIEFING MASHOLOGU ON TALKS BETWEEN FIVE-POWER

CONTACT GROUP AND SAG. MASHOLOGU RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS:

A. TIMING OF ELECTIONS: MASHOLOGU OBSERVED "AFRICANS" ARE CONCERNED THAT ADEQUATE TIME BE GIVEN TO SWAPO TO ORGANIZE ITSELF WITHIN NAMIDIA PRIOR TO HOLDING OF ELECTIONS. OTHER GROUPS ARE WELL ESTABLISHED, HE OBSERVED, AND SWAPO SHOULD HAVE SAME OPPORTUNITY. MASHOLOGU STATED THAT "AFRICANS" ARE EXTREMELY SUSPICIOUS AND FEAR THAT ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE THAT WOULD RESULT IN SWAPO "SIMPLY BEING KNOCKED OFF IN THE ELECTIONS."

B. UN PRESENCE: MASHOLOGU EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN WITH NATURE OF UN PRESENCE. HE UNDERSTOOD ROLE OF UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN ASSURING FAIR ELECTIONS BUT SAID QUESTION IS ONE OF NATURE OF UN AUTHORITY DURING TRANSITION PERIOD. HE VOICED OPINION THAT IN CARRYING OUT UN RESOLUTIONS, UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD HAVE OR SHARE AUTHORITY AND NOT BE RELEGATED TO OBSERVER ROLE AND KEEPING HIMSELF INFORMED.

C. ROLE OF ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL: MASHOLOGU EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PROPOSAL TO ALLOW SAG APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL WITHOUT EVEN ANY MENTION OF CONSULTATION WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL. HE SUGGESTED UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OUGHT TO SHARE AUTHORITY WITH ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL OR, ALTERNATIVELY, THAT UN SYG SHOULD HAVE VETO OVER APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL.

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PAGE 03 MASERU 00897 241052Z

D. SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL: MASHOLOGU WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE COMPLETED BY INDEPENDENCE (POINT NO. 9 IN AGREED TEXT). HE SAID THEY HAD "HEARD" THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH NEGOTIATION BETWEEN AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. WE ASSURED HIM THIS POINT HAD BEEN AGREED.

E. UN PEACE KEEPING OR POLICE FORCES: WHEN MASHOLOGU ASKED ABOUT THIS, WE REPLIED MATTER HAD NOT BEEN RAISED.

F. NAMIBIA COMMISSION: MASHOLOGU SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD ANY MENTION OF ROLE FOR COMMISSION. WE REPLIED THAT MATTER HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED.

4. COMMENT: MASHOLOGU HAS JUST RETURNED FROM LONDON COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. HE WILL NOT GO TO LIBERVILLE. HE LEFT ME WITH DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE FEELS TALKS UP TO THIS POINT HAVE TAKEN DIRECTION ALLOWING SAG TOO UNRESTRICTED AUTHORITY DURING TRANSITION PERIOD AND THAT UN ROLE IS BEING CONSIDERED IN TERMS THAT DO NOT ACCORD IT A PART

COMMENSURATE WITH ITS LEGAL POSITION.
STOKES

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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